

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 851

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the J. B. Donoho Nursery of Portland.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute that most noble agricultural institution, the nursery, which serves as a cornerstone for our communities while bringing credit and acclaim to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy nursery is the J. B. Donoho Nursery on Jackson Road in Portland, owned by James Blaine “Jim” Donoho III; and

WHEREAS, this nursery can trace its long and storied history back to the mid-1860s when two brothers, James M. Donoho and John H. Donoho, operated a nursery in Willette; and

WHEREAS, at the turn of the century, the brothers opened a nursery in Portland on what is now Jackson Road, the same location from which the business operates today; and

WHEREAS, the brothers called the two businesses Donoho Brothers Nursery, Willette and Portland; and

WHEREAS, during the early years of the business, they raised vegetables to sell, wheat, pedigreed cows; they operated the nursery; and they grafted fruit trees, with early records indicating that apple trees were sold for ten cents each; and

WHEREAS, the two brothers would take orders and deliver the trees by horse and wagon; and

WHEREAS, thriving on the familial roots from which this business stemmed, the nursery in Portland is now in the fourth generation of family ownership; and

WHEREAS, as founders of the business, the Donoho brothers were the first generation; the second generation to operate the nursery was James Blaine Donoho, Sr.; the third

generation was James Blaine Donoho, Jr., and Will Austin Donoho; and the fourth generation to own the business is the current owner, James Blaine “Jim” Donoho III; and

WHEREAS, there is the possibility that the business could be passed on to a fifth generation, as Jim and his wife, Lisa, have a son named James Blaine Donoho IV, known as “Blaine”, who works with his dad when possible; and

WHEREAS, the business has had several name changes as different generations took over the operation of the nursery; and

WHEREAS, in the 1800s, it was called Donoho Brothers; in the 1920s, it became J. B. Donoho Nursery; for a period of time, it was known as J. B. Donoho and Sons Nursery; and when Jim acquired the business, the name reverted back to J. B. Donoho Nursery; and

WHEREAS, for many years, the nursery actively grew many types of fruits and vegetables along with nursery stock, harvesting strawberries in the spring and apples in the summer; and

WHEREAS, however, when a tornado hit Portland in 1985, the apple trees were badly damaged and the owners decided to destroy the existing trees and permanently close the orchard division of the operation; and

WHEREAS, today, J. B. Donoho Nursery operates as a wholesale nursery business, offering approximately seventy varieties of field-grown plants that are used by commercial landscapers and garden centers; and

WHEREAS, the nursery employs five to eight workers, most of whom have been working with Jim Donoho for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, housing has always been provided for employees, and Jim has participated in the H/2A Worker Program for many years; and

WHEREAS, when Jim Donoho entered the nursery business in 1990, approximately forty acres were being utilized for nursery stock and the rest of the acreage was being used for row crops and cattle; today, the nursery has enlarged to just over 130 acres; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the J. B. Donoho Nursery and its employees for their dedication to

agriculture, recognizing the importance of the nursery industry to our communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the J. B. Donoho Nursery for its tradition of excellence in the agribusiness industry in Tennessee, and extend to Jim Donoho and his employees our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.